

## editorial

## RCMP to back NUS?

### Western Union of Students

Vice-President Services Tony Melnechuk organized and pulled-off a convention last week-end that was a complete success. Our Students' Union played host to a western-oriented convention to discuss the relative merits of SU operated services. The universities of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Winnipeg, Lethbridge, Calgary, and St. Thomas More College met for the three-day session and openly discussed the advantages and/or disadvantages of their respective experiences.

This kind of participation between universities is a rarity these days. Other than NUS and CUP conferences, there seems to be little official co-ordination between students unions.

The best aspect of our Services convention was that it was apolitical. No one was selling ideas or promoting ideals that were not a specific reality to the operations of the participants. Services are the tangible benefits and rewards the students receive from their Students' Union dues. The purpose of the conference was to determine the maximum benefits to be realized from the tight money situation that is a reality to all Canadian, and more specifically, western universities.

Missing from the convention was the usual semantic and philosophical surrealism that plagues other popular collective meetings. Replacing this was a pragmatic approach to common objectives that suggested the need for western-oriented union of students' did exist.

Given the common goals and ideologies that are characteristic of our universities, the concept of a western union of students is worth considering.

Bernie Fritze

The idea of outside financial assistance to bolster the strength of the ailing National Union of Students was quickly discarded at the Saskatoon conference last month.

The following article suggests that that kind of assistance might well indeed have more disadvantages than advantages:

Washington, D.S. (I.P.) - Tracing the public relations problems of the National Student Association to the former involvement of the Central Intelligence Agency in NSA funding and part of their financial situation to harassment by the Internal Revenue Service, NSA President Kathy Kelly said many of NSA's problems result from revelations in the late 1960's that the CIA funded many NSA activities in exchange for information from files on foreign students.

The CIA intimidated national officers into cooperating with them, loaned student leaders credit cards and expense accounts and paid the mortgage on the NSA building in Washington, she said.

After that support was withdrawn and the organization ran on credit for three years until it could build up its own financial base. Now, Kelly said, there's about \$20,000 in debts and "harassment" about back taxes from the IRS. "We were on the enemies list," she said.

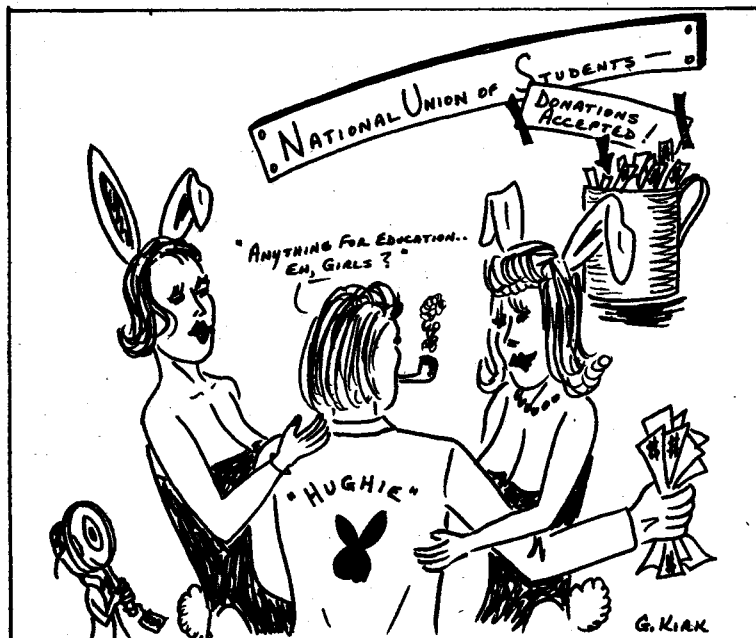
"They (IRS officials) spent a lot of time and money harassing us about our tax status as an education institution.

Members of her organization are working with the IRS to separate NSA's educational and political activities for tax purposes, she said. "I have a lot of trouble drawing a line between what is educational and what is political. Some people say that certain issues are appropriate for student discussion and others are not."

The problem of funding for

a national organization which operates on a "shoe-string budget" is a continuing one and an effort is made to reject suspicious sources of funds, she said.

Kelly said she would refuse any money from the U.S. government. Should NSA accept money from the Playboy Foundation, which has made overtures to them? Kelly says "no." "I was so outraged at the proposal, but here we are trying to make the light bill for the month," she said.



## letters

### Lipopein concept

In 1828 a German chemist by the name of F. Wohler converted ammonium cyanate (an inorganic compound) to urea (an organic compound) by simply heating. Evidently the writer on the past article "On Life" learned his elementary chemistry before this time for he is of the opinion that it is absurd that living things are built from things that are not living. He therefore apparently has never taken a glass of water nor sprinkled salt on his steaks. I marvel at his constitution. He must be a cross between a kangaroo rat and a bacterium.

That there are holes in Darwin's theory of evolution is common knowledge; but to toss this or any other point because it is not perfect displays a shallow and closed mind. Evolution appears to be instead several components - mutation, selection, probability, stress and reverse transcriptase. Darwin may not have been able to put it all into a box, but he came close enough.

As for the contradiction that the first living thing was immensely complicated, the contradiction is merely a fabrication of the writer. Obviously the primordial blob didn't have our genome inscribed in its own (though it may have had that of the past writer). Besides the lipopein concept, there is some crude evidence that the first living thing was merely strands of polypeptides and has nothing to do with nucleotides.

In summary, that the previous writer criticized

accepted principles is commendable; that he criticized them without understanding the basics and gave twisted limited versions of them is condemnable. To quote his second sentence "This attitude betrays a philosophic assumption which once exposed is so idiotic as to cause one almost complete despair over the human condition."

John Cherwonogrodzky  
Graduate Studies  
Microbiology

### Posters sabotaged

As is now generally known, two leading world artists, Yevhenia Miroshnickenko, celebrated coloratura soprano, and Dmytro Hnatiuk, baritone, soloists with the Kiev Opera and Ballet Theatre, will be giving a recital at the Northern Alberan Jubilee Auditorium in November 8th at 8:00 p.m. It is under the Canada-USSR Cultural Exchange Agreement that the people of Edmonton will have an opportunity to hear these artists, who have already been warmly received throughout much of the world.

In the hope that the concert tour by these artists might be a success, and in particular, in the hope that these artists might be received in Canada as well as we might hope our artists might be received abroad, the National Concert Agency, the firm responsible for the arrangements, embarked on a publicity campaign. In this connection, the Agency had asked me to assist with the publicity in the Edmonton area.

Since my time was very limited, the help that I could offer was minimal. My main

contribution consisted of placing a few brochures and posters on bulletin boards around the University. It is some of the consequences of this contribution that Edmontonians should take note of.

About the middle of last August, I placed a few brochures on bulletin boards in the University, and in particular in the Central Academic Building. By the next day, these brochures had been removed.

I went through the motions again and replaced all the brochures which had been removed. By the following day, they had been removed again.

When the brochures were removed the second time, it was possible to pinpoint the time of day when this act had been committed to a time when very few people other than the janitorial staff were around the buildings.

My suspicions were aroused and I telephoned the office of the Building Supervisor in the Central Academic Building, asking him to alert his staff to keep their hands off the brochures that I had put up. Following this, I replaced the brochures again, and these now remained in place for about one month.

On October 31, I put up a few posters in the University buildings. In particular, I received permission from the Students Union Office to place four posters in the Students Union Building. By the next day, the four posters which I had put up were all removed.

On the basis of usually reliable information, it appears that this is part of a concentrated campaign by a certain group to sabotage this concert tour. The people in Edmonton, and indeed in Canada, should take note of this perverse activity and should repudiate it in total. The

### "THE MATURE STUDENT"

*I'm the "mature student" and the going is slow,  
Upon arrival here, it is clear how little I know;  
I'm the one who can't open her Chemistry locker, so,  
The aid of a younger person is enlisted to show  
That the combination lock does work - what an embarrassing blow!  
And when purchasing books with an enthusiastic glow,  
The store manager tells me which way to go,  
In search for a book and he asks, which edition? Do you know?  
And my reply nearly floors him when I say: does it matter, oh?  
ON WITH THE SHOW!*

*To discouragement and blues, I will say "NO!"  
I won't let you in, I have a long way to go  
Without having the burden of you for my foe.  
To readers of this poem (?) I am sure you will agree,  
We all hope that I will learn to write better at this University.*

Sheila M. Rozon  
Arts 1

### Tenure - meanings and implications explor

by Michael MacNeil

The dismissal hearing of tenured psychology professor Larry Chamberlain of the University of Western Ontario has raised serious questions about the rights and responsibilities of tenure as an institution.

The case coincided with a report from the U of WO Senate committee on Composition and Procedures of Committees of Appointments, Promotions, and Tenure. The report basically states that committees are to be composed at the discretion of the faculties, and weigh heavily against more than minimal student representation.

The U of WO and other

universities including the U of A continue to frustrate student attempts to fully participate in faculty hiring and firing as well as in matters which regard appeals.

Because student representation in these areas is an unsettled, continuing struggle in universities across Canada, a series of articles being written for *The Gateway* will explore the meaning and implications of tenure. Opinions from various sources for and against student representation on faculty committees, and the history of student attempts to increase their participation will be examined in this most important area of their education.